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EXAMINER	
NALEVANKO, CHRISTOPHER R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2611	

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/725,815	YUI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher R. Nalevanko	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 May 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21 and 23-45* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21 and 23-45* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 19-21, and 23-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshinobu et al (5,686,954) in further view of Lawler (5,758,259).

Regarding Claim 1, Yoshinobu shows a receiving apparatus comprising a receiving means for receiving a broadcasting signal (col. 13 lines 14-21, 26-53, receiving device) in which information signals of a plurality of programs are multiplexed (col. 8 lines 1-47, data and television programs broadcast on a number of frequencies, col. 31 lines 45-55, multiplexing data), information output means for outputting information of an information signal received by said receiving means (col. 13 lines 55-65, decodes section that outputs video data), selecting means for selecting an arbitrary program from the plurality of programs by a user (col. 13 lines 45-53, program selector for extract relevant program information), and transmitting means for transmitting program

information of a program selected by said selecting means to an external apparatus (col. 13 lines 55-65, video processing section for outputting video images to a display). Although another user could access the selected program in Yoshinobu, he fails to specifically state this fact. Lawler clearly shows transmitting program selections to an external apparatus which are accessible by another user (col. 2 lines 40-50, using different users selections and recommendations, col. 7 lines 35-60, user selection processed by central node, col. 8 lines 50-63, viewing selections transmitted to central node, col. 9 lines 35-67, col. 10 lines 1-19, other users using selected viewing recommendations). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu with the ability to transmit selections for access by other users, as shown in Lawler, so that other users could be recommended selection of particular shows in order to find interesting media.

Regarding Claim 2, Yoshinobu shows the broadcasting signal is further multiplexed with program attribute data of the plurality of programs (col. 8 lines 38-67, data packets representing program information, col. 11 lines 40-52, program information), and the transmitting means includes program information generating means for generating the program information by using the program attribute data of a program selected by said selecting means (col. 21 lines 5-26, fig. 15, schedule display).

Regarding Claim 3, Yoshinobu shows that the program table generating means for generating a program table by using the program attribute data (fig. 15, col. 20 lines 40-67, schedule generation), and the selecting means selects an arbitrary program from a

plurality of programs contained in the program list (col. 21 lines 14-37, displaying program schedule corresponding to ID data and category).

Regarding Claim 5, Yoshinobu shows the selecting means searches the plurality of programs in accordance with a predetermined retrieval condition and selects a program in accordance with a search result (col. 22 lines 13-37, search menu finding corresponding programs and returning them to be generated for display).

Regarding Claim 6, Yoshinobu shows a receiving means for receiving a broadcasting signal in which video signals and program information signals of a plurality of programs are multiplexed (col. 8 lines 1-47, data and television programs broadcast on a number of frequencies, col. 31 lines 45-55, multiplexing data, col. 8 lines 38-67, data packets representing program information, col. 11 lines 40-52, program information), video signal processing means for processing the video signal of a program selected from the plurality of programs and outputting the processed video signal to a display device (col. 13 lines 55-65, video processing section for outputting video images to a display), program information extracting means for extracting program information from the broadcasting signal received by said receiving means (col. 13 lines 5-15, 45-53, extracting program ID information), program table generating means for generating a program table in accordance with the program information extracted by said program information extracting means (fig. 15, col. 20 lines 40-67, schedule generation) and outputting data representative of the program table to the display device (fig. 15), selecting means for selecting an arbitrary recommended program by a user from programs described in the program table (col. 13 lines 45-53, program selector for extract

relevant program information, col. 21 lines 14-37, displaying program schedule corresponding to ID data and category), file generating means for generating an output file of the recommended programs selected by said selecting means by using the program information of the recommended program among the program information extracted by said program information extracting means (col. 22 lines 32-53, displaying file of related programs corresponding to search criteria), and transmitting means for transmitting the output file of the recommended program generated by said file generating means to an external apparatus (col. 22 lines 50-54, processing section for display on CRT). Although another user could access the selected program in Yoshinobu, he fails to specifically state this fact. Lawler clearly shows transmitting program selections to an external apparatus which are accessible by another user (col. 2 lines 40-50, using different users selections and recommendations, col. 7 lines 35-60, user selection processed by central node, col. 8 lines 50-63, viewing selections transmitted to central node, col. 9 lines 35-67, col. 10 lines 1-19, other users using selected viewing recommendations). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu with the ability to transmit selections for access by other users, as shown in Lawler, so that other users could be recommended selection of particular shows in order to find interesting media.

Regarding Claim 7, Yoshinobu shows the output file of the recommended program includes a plurality of information items (col. 22 lines13-52, displaying search results), and the file generating means generates an identification tag of each of the

plurality of information items (col. 22 lines 25-52, generation section converts the received text data of the ID-corresponding list data).

Regarding Claim 8, Yoshinobu fails to show a recommendation index for the programs. Lawler shows the ability to rank, score, and recommend programs according to a user's preferences (col. 2 lines 40-50, using different users selections and recommendations, col. 7 lines 35-60, user selection processed by central node, col. 8 lines 50-63, viewing selections transmitted to central node, col. 9 lines 35-67, col. 10 lines 1-19, other users using selected viewing recommendations). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu with the ability to use recommendation scoring, as shown in Lawler, so that the user would be provided with more relevant viewing choices.

Regarding Claim 9, Lawler shows the information item includes information representative of the person who recommended the program (col. 10 lines 5-20, indicating user ID data to accurately correlate user preferences).

Regarding Claim 10, Although Yoshinobu shows multiple components connected together, he fails to specifically state transmitting the recommended programs to a network connected to the receiving means. Lawler shows the ability to transmit a users profile, which contains recommended shows, to a network and subsequently a head-end (col. 8 lines 50-63, viewing selections transmitted to central node). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu with the ability to send recommendations to a network, as shown in Lawler,

so that the system could keep track or users selections and provide more interesting programming.

Regarding Claim 11, Yoshinobu shows a receiving means for receiving a broadcasting signal in which video signals and program information signals of a plurality of programs are multiplexed (col. 8 lines 1-47, data and television programs broadcast on a number of frequencies, col. 31 lines 45-55, multiplexing data, col. 8 lines 38-67, data packets representing program information, col. 11 lines 40-52, program information), video signal processing means for processing the video signal of a program selected from the plurality of programs and outputting the processed video signal to a display device (col. 13 lines 55-65, video processing section for outputting video images to a display), program information extracting means for extracting program information from the broadcasting signal received by said receiving means (col. 13 lines 5-15, 45-53, extracting program ID information), program table generating means for generating a program table in accordance with the program information extracted by said program information extracting means (fig. 15, col. 20 lines 40-67, schedule generation) and outputting data representative of the program table to the display device (fig. 15), selecting means for searching the plurality of programs by a user with a retrieval condition and selecting a recommended program from the search result (col. 22 lines 13-45, indicating a search criteria to display results, col. 22 lines 54-60, selecting and viewing one of the returned results), file generating means for generating an output file of the recommended programs selected by said selecting means by using the program information of the recommended program among the program information extracted by

said program information extracting means (col. 22 lines 32-53, displaying file of related programs corresponding to search criteria), and transmitting means for transmitting the output file of the recommended program generated by said file generating means to an external apparatus (col. 22 lines 50-54, processing section for display on CRT). Although another user could access the selected program in Yoshinobu, he fails to specifically state this fact. Lawler clearly shows transmitting program selections to an external apparatus which are accessible by another user (col. 2 lines 40-50, using different users selections and recommendations, col. 7 lines 35-60, user selection processed by central node, col. 8 lines 50-63, viewing selections transmitted to central node, col. 9 lines 35-67, col. 10 lines 1-19, other users using selected viewing recommendations). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu with the ability to transmit selections for access by other users, as shown in Lawler, so that other users could be recommended selection of particular shows in order to find interesting media.

Regarding Claim 12, Yoshinobu shows a receiving means for receiving a television broadcasting signal in which video signals of a plurality of broadcasting programs and program guide information of the plurality of broadcasting programs are multiplexed (col. 8 lines 1-47, data and television programs broadcast on a number of frequencies, col. 31 lines 45-55, multiplexing data, col. 8 lines 38-67, data packets representing program information, col. 11 lines 40-52, program information), extraction means for extracting the program guide information from the television broadcasting signal received by said receiving means (col. 13 lines 5-15, 45-53, extracting program ID

information), input means for inputting selection guide information of a program selected from the plurality of broadcasting programs, from an external apparatus (col. 13 lines 45-53, program selector for extract relevant program information, col. 21 lines 14-37, displaying program schedule corresponding to ID data and category), and program table generating means for generating a first program table indicating the plurality of broadcasting programs, on the basis of the program guide information extracted by said extraction means (fig. 15, col. 20 lines 40-67, schedule generation) and generating a second program table indicating the selected program, in accordance with the selection guide information input by said input means (col. 22 lines 32-53, displaying file of related programs corresponding to search criteria). Although another user could access the selected program in Yoshinobu, he fails to specifically state this fact. Lawler clearly shows transmitting program input selections to an external apparatus which are accessible by another user (col. 2 lines 40-50, using different users selections and recommendations, col. 7 lines 35-60, user selection processed by central node, col. 8 lines 50-63, viewing selections transmitted to central node, col. 9 lines 35-67, col. 10 lines 1-19, other users using selected viewing recommendations). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu with the ability to transmit selections for access by other users, as shown in Lawler, so that other users could be recommended selection of particular shows in order to find interesting media.

Regarding Claim 19, Yoshinobu shows input means inputs a plurality of selection guide information (col. 22 lines 13-45, indicating a search criteria to display results), and

the program table generating means generates the second program table on the basis of selection guide information selected from among the plurality of selection guide information (col. 22 lines 32-53, displaying file of related programs corresponding to search criteria)

Regarding Claim 20, Yoshinobu shows the program table generating means generates a two-dimensional program table having a broadcasting time as one axis and a channel as the other axis (fig. 15).

Regarding Claim 21, Yoshinobu shows the program table generating means displays information of the selected program in a corresponding area of the second program table and inhibits information of other programs from being displayed in other areas (see fig. 16a, 16b, indicating that when the second table pops up, only information from the selected search menu is shown).

Regarding Claim 23, Yoshinobu shows generating a frame over an area in the first program table, corresponding to the selected program (fig. 16b, 17b).

Regarding Claim 24, Yoshinobu shows generating a predetermined mark in a predetermined area in the first program table corresponding to the selected program (fig. 15, shaded or highlighted selected program).

Regarding Claim 25, Yoshinobu shows a designating means for designating an arbitrary program from a plurality of programs contained in the second program table (fig. 18 and 19, col. 23 lines 15-52, selecting program from searched programs), and signal processing means for processing the information signal of a video signal of a program designated by said designating means, among the video signals received by said

receiving means (col. 22 lines 54-60, selecting item for viewing, col. 23 lines 60-67, selecting item for recording).

Regarding Claim 26, Yoshinobu shows a receiving means for receiving a television broadcasting signal in which video signals of a plurality of broadcasting programs are multiplexed (col. 8 lines 1-47, data and television programs broadcast on a number of frequencies, col. 31 lines 45-55, multiplexing data, col. 8 lines 38-67, data packets representing program information, col. 11 lines 40-52, program information), output means for outputting the video signal of the broadcasting program received by said receiving means to a display device (col. 13 lines 55-65, video processing section for outputting video images to a display), retrieving means for retrieving a program from the plurality of broadcasting programs in accordance with a predetermined condition (col. 22 lines 13-45, indicating a search criteria to display results, col. 22 lines 54-60, selecting and viewing one of the returned results), input means for inputting selection guide information of the program selected from a plurality of broadcasting programs, from an external apparatus (col. 13 lines 45-53, program selector for extract relevant program information, col. 21 lines 14-37, displaying program schedule corresponding to ID data and category), and program table generating means for generating a program table in accordance with a retrieval result by said retrieving means (col. 22 lines 32-53, displaying file of related programs corresponding to search criteria) and the selection guide information input by the input means and for outputting data representative of the program table to said display device (fig. 16-19, displaying searched and selected items). Although another user could access the selected program in Yoshinobu, he fails to

specifically state this fact. Lawler clearly shows transmitting program input selections to an external apparatus which are accessible by another user (col. 2 lines 40-50, using different users selections and recommendations, col. 7 lines 35-60, user selection processed by central node, col. 8 lines 50-63, viewing selections transmitted to central node, col. 9 lines 35-67, col. 10 lines 1-19, other users using selected viewing recommendations). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu with the ability to transmit selections for access by other users, as shown in Lawler, so that other users could be recommended selection of particular shows in order to find interesting media.

Regarding Claim 27, Yoshinobu shows the program table generating means generates a two-dimensional program table having a broadcasting time as one axis and a channel as the other axis (fig. 15).

Regarding Claim 28, Yoshinobu shows that only the program selected and programs selected in accordance with the retrieval results are displayed in corresponding areas of the program table (fig. 16b, 17b, and 19, only programs that are selected and relate to the search category are displayed).

Regarding Claim 29, Yoshinobu shows that selected items can be displayed in different colors and shades (col. 28 lines 64-67, col. 29 lines 38-45, change of color, monochrome reversal display, fig. 19, shading of selected item).

Regarding Claim 30, Yoshinobu shows that only programs that are coincident with the retrieval results are displayed in the program table (fig. 18 and 19, displaying the shows that correspond to a designated criteria). It is noted that shading of the selected

item in fig. 19 results in a reduction in brightness of the cell as compared to other cells. In addition, colors have different levels of brightness, i.e. color vs. monochrome.

Regarding Claim 31, Yoshinobu shows in the broadcasting signal, program attribute data of the plurality of programs is further multiplexed (col. 8 lines 1-47, data and television programs broadcast on a number of frequencies, col. 31 lines 45-55, multiplexing data, col. 8 lines 38-67, data packets representing program information, col. 11 lines 40-52, program information), and the program table generating means generates the program in which program information generated by using the program attribute data of the selected program among the program attribute data and program information of the selected program are displayed (fig. 15, col. 20 lines 40-67, schedule generation).

Regarding Claim 32, Yoshinobu shows a receiving means for receiving a television broadcasting signal in which image signals of a plurality of broadcasting programs and program guide information of the plurality of broadcasting programs are multiplexed (col. 8 lines 1-47, data and television programs broadcast on a number of frequencies, col. 31 lines 45-55, multiplexing data, col. 8 lines 38-67, data packets representing program information, col. 11 lines 40-52, program information), extracting means for extracting the program guide information from the television broadcasting signal received by said receiving means (col. 13 lines 5-15, 45-53, extracting program ID information), input means for inputting recommendation guide information of a program recommended from among the plurality of broadcasting programs, from an external apparatus (col. 13 lines 45-53, program selector for extract relevant program information, col. 21 lines 14-37, displaying program schedule corresponding to ID data and category,

col. 22 lines 13-45, indicating a search criteria to display results, col. 22 lines 54-60, selecting and viewing one of the returned results), program table generating means for generating a first program table indicating the plurality of broadcasting programs, in accordance with the program guide information extracted by said extracting means and generating means (fig. 15) and generating a second program table indicating the recommended program (col. 22 lines 13-45, indicating a search criteria to display results, col. 22 lines 54-60, selecting and viewing one of the returned results, figs. 16b and 17b), on the basis of the recommendation guide information input by said input means (col. 22 lines 13-45, indicating a search criteria to display results, col. 22 lines 54-60), output means for outputting the image signals received by said receiving means and data of the first and second program tables generated by said program table generating means to a display device (figs. 15-19, col. 22 lines 50-54, processing section for display on CRT), designating means for designating an arbitrary program in the first and second program tables (fig. 16b and 17b, selecting from the menu a category then a specific program), and controlling means for controlling said receiving means to receive the program designated by said designating means and controlling said output means to output the image signal of the designated broadcasting program to said display device (col. 22 lines 54-60, selecting item to be viewed). Although another user could access the selected program in Yoshinobu, he fails to specifically state this fact. Lawler clearly shows transmitting program input selections to an external apparatus which are accessible by another user (col. 2 lines 40-50, using different users selections and recommendations, col. 7 lines 35-60, user selection processed by central node, col. 8 lines 50-63, viewing selections

transmitted to central node, col. 9 lines 35-67, col. 10 lines 1-19, other users using selected viewing recommendations). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu with the ability to transmit selections for access by other users, as shown in Lawler, so that other users could be recommended selection of particular shows in order to find interesting media.

Regarding Claim 33, the method claim has been discussed with regards to the apparatus claim of Claim 1.

Regarding Claim 34, the method claim has been discussed with regards to the apparatus claim of Claim 6.

Regarding Claim 35, the method claim has been discussed with regards to the apparatus claim of Claim 11.

Regarding Claim 36, the method claim has been discussed with regards to the apparatus claim of Claim 12.

Regarding Claim 37, the method claim has been discussed with regards to the apparatus claim of Claim 26.

Regarding Claim 38, the limitations of the claim have been discussed with regards to Claim 32.

Regarding Claim 39, Yoshinobu shows a recording medium storing a program (col. 14 lines 13-20, CPU, RAM, ROM). All other limitations have been discussed with regards to Claim 1.

Regarding Claim 40, Yoshinobu shows a recording medium storing a program (col. 14 lines 13-20, CPU, RAM, ROM). All other limitations have been discussed with regards to Claim 6.

Regarding Claim 41, Yoshinobu shows a recording medium storing a program (col. 14 lines 13-20, CPU, RAM, ROM). All other limitations have been discussed with regards to Claim 11.

Regarding Claim 42, Yoshinobu shows a recording medium storing a program (col. 14 lines 13-20, CPU, RAM, ROM). All other limitations have been discussed with regards to Claim 12.

Regarding Claim 43, Yoshinobu shows a recording medium storing a program (col. 14 lines 13-20, CPU, RAM, ROM). All other limitations have been discussed with regards to Claim 26.

Regarding Claim 44, Yoshinobu shows a recording medium storing a program (col. 14 lines 13-20, CPU, RAM, ROM). All other limitations have been discussed with regards to Claim 32.

3. Claims 4, 13, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshinobu et al (5,686,954) in further view of Lawler (5,758,259) and Schein et al (6,002,394).

Regarding Claim 4, Yoshinobu and Lawler fails to show inputting comments of a program and using the comments to generate a list of program information by using the comments. Schein shows inputting comment information of a program selected by selecting means (col. 10 lines 40-60, indicating a channel or program as a "favorite"), and

transmitting means includes generating the program information by using the comment information (col. 10 lines 40-60, displaying the favorite channels in order determined by user). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu and Lawler with the ability to add comments for filter the program list, as shown in Schein, so that the use would be presented with a list of programs that he had reviewed and enjoyed.

Regarding Claim 13, Yoshinobu and Lawler fail to show judging whether the receiving means can receive a program and changing the second table in response to that judgment. Schein shows that a user is able to select a pay program. Upon this selection, the user is prompted to enter a password or pin number, which changes the contents of the second table (col. 23 lines 4-18, fig. 18c-18e, prompting a user for a password). When requiring a user to enter a password, the system is making a judgment of whether or not the user can receive the program. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu and Lawler with judging if a user could receive a program, as shown by Schein, so that a user would not be allowed to access unauthorized material.

Regarding Claim 16, Although Yoshinobu shows a "pay" tab on the selection menu (fig. 15), he and Lawler fail to specifically state including a pay-per-view program selection means, and a control means for performing a judgment process in accordance with pay-per-view information. Schein shows a pay-per-view program means and control means for controlling the pay-per-view information (col. 24 lines 40-67, pay-per-view programs). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu and Lawler with the pay-per-view selection, as shown by Schein, so that a user could order premium programming at a price per viewing.

Regarding Claim 17, Yoshinobu and Lawler fail to show restriction information of the selected program and control means for restricting the program in accordance with the information. Schein shows the ability to require a user to enter a password for certain restricted programs, effectively restricting the program to people who do not have the password (fig. 18c, col. 23 lines 1-18, entering password to allow viewing of selected program). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu and Lawler with the restricted access, as shown by Schein, so that a user could prevent unauthorized viewing of certain programs.

Regarding Claim 18, Yoshinobu shows recording means for recording a broadcast program (col. 15 lines 10-22, recording device), a control process for judging if the recorded program is a selected program and changing the second table on the basis of that judgment (col. 30 lines 48-62, marking items in search list with 'o' indicating they are to be recorded)

4. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshinobu et al (5,686,954) in further view of Lawler (5,758,259), Schein et al (6,002,394) and Vallone et al (6,642,939).

Regarding Claim 14, Yoshinobu shows that the selection guide information includes time information representative of the broadcasting time (fig. 15 and 19c). Yoshinobu, Lawler, and Schein fail to show the ability to inhibit a program whose

broadcast time in incompatible. Vallone shows the ability to inhibit a program whose broadcast time is incompatible (col. 19 lines 10-17, overlapping times for receiving). Therefore, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu, Lawler, and Schein with the ability to notice incompatible viewing times, as shown in Vallone, so that the system would not run into problems with receiving two programs at the same time. Furthermore, this would notify the user and allow them to choose the program they would want to watch more.

Regarding Claim 15, Yoshinobu, Lawler, and Schein fail to show the ability to indicate that a type of program is not allowed to be shown and is different from those receivable by the receiving apparatus. Vallone shows the ability to inhibit a program that is not compatible with the receiving apparatus (col. 17 lines 14-24, preventing users of a receiver from viewing unauthorized programs, higher than a certain rating). Therefore, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshinobu, Lawler, and Schein with the ability to notice incompatible viewing types, as shown in Vallone, so that a user would not be able to view certain programs

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shteyn U.S. Patent No. 6,611,654 discloses a time and location driven personalized TV.

Ali U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0199194 discloses an intelligent system and methods of recommending media content items based on user preferences.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Nalevanko whose telephone number is 571-272-7299. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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